



## **TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD**

Finance & Budget Committee  
Town Hall, 50 South Main Street, Room 312  
October 27, 2017  
8:00 AM

### **Attendance**

Shari Cantor, Mayor (Chair)  
Leon Davidoff (member)  
Chris Williams (member), by phone  
Chris Barnes  
Dallas Dodge  
Denise B. Hall, by phone  
Beth Kerrigan  
Ben Wenograd

### **Staff**

Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Peter Privitera, Director of Finance  
Brittany Stephenson, Executive Assistant to Town Manager

### **Members of the Public**

- 1. Call to Order**  
Mayor Cantor called the meeting to order at 8:00am
- 2. Staff Reports**  
No staff reports for the committee except business items listed on the agenda.
- 3. Committee Correspondence**
  - a. August 30, 2017 Minutes-The committee acknowledged the meeting minutes from the August 30, 2017 Finance and Budget committee meeting.
- 4. Business Items**

a. **Status of FY 2017/18 State Budget (Attachment)**

Mr. Hart and Mr. Privitera updated the committee on the status of the FY2017-2018 budget. The attachments compared the Town's adopted and approved budgets. The Town will have a positive variance (surplus) of either approximately \$4.9 million or \$2.5 million, pending the collection of supplemental motor vehicle tax revenue. Motor vehicle tax bills were sent out at the then current 32 mills rate. With the recent passing of a bipartisan state budget proposal, the approval to send supplemental bills up to 37 mills is a decision that will have to be made by the Town Council.

Mr. Privitera presented three options for the use of the surplus which include addressing the fund balance ratio, funding for pension liability which is currently underfunded, or address the Other Post-Employment benefits (OPEB) liabilities.

b. **10/16/2017 Communication from Moody's Investors Service**

Mr. Hart and Mr. Privitera updated the committee on 10/16/2017 communication from Moody's Investors Service. The Town has been placed on a negative outlook watch. This is not an automatic downgrade for the Town. The uncertainty and instability of the state budget resulted in Moody's action to place the Town on the list. Although Moody has historically taken other fund balances into account, the Town's general fund balance is well behind other peer communities. The Town is the only Triple-A rated community on the list.

Moody does have a favorable view of the Town and has offered ways in which the Town can improve its outlook. Mr. Hart and Mr. Privitera continue to work on solutions for the Town and will present to the committee a multi-year proposal for consideration.

c. **Status of FY 2017/18 Town Operating Budget and CIP**

Mr. Hart and Mr. Privitera updated the committee on the status of the Town's operating budget and CIP. The Town is working on various savings options, including setting aside funding from each department. The Town plans to roll work into the FY2019 budget and look at long term solutions. There will be a series of recommendations presented to the Council for consideration.

**5. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.